The Holocaust Butterfly Project

REMEMBER US, FOR WE WERE THE CHILDREN WHOSE DREAMS AND LIVES WERE STOLEN AWAY.- BARBARA SONEK

Butterflies are a powerful symbol of transformation and have the ability to make an impact with just a flap of one’s wings. They symbolize all the good things in life but also remind us that life is fragile and delicate. The butterfly also serves as a symbol of hope. The butterfly project was inspired by the poem "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" written by Pavel Friedmann, a young Czech who wrote while in the Terezin Concentration Camp. Pavel Friedmann ultimately died in Auschwitz in 1944. The Butterfly Project is a tribute to the lives of the young people lost in the Holocaust, 1.5 million children that perished in concentration camps throughout Germany and Eastern Europe. Very few children survived Terezin Concentration Camp or any other camp.

“EVERYONE HAS INSIDE OF HIM A PIECE OF GOOD NEWS. THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT YOU DON’T KNOW HOW GREAT YOU CAN BE! HOW MUCH YOU CAN LOVE! WHAT YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH! AND WHAT YOUR POTENTIAL IS!”- ANNE FRANK

The Butterfly Project was created to honor the lives of the children lost during the Holocaust. Teachers gave students across the globe names of Holocaust children, and these students created Butterflies to honor them, these butterflies were all sizes, from different mediums, some with poetry, letters, newsletters, or journals.

Butterflies arrived from Africa, Asia, Australia, North America, South America and Europe as the project inspired people around the globe. One butterfly even arrived from space. American Astronaut Rex Walheim participated in The Butterfly Project in July 2011 while aboard the final mission of Space Shuttle Atlantis. He created his butterfly in memory of the children who perished in the Holocaust and in honor of Israeli Astronaut Ilan Ramon, who died tragically with six other crew members during the re-entry of Space Shuttle Columbia in February 2003.
The Butterfly

The last, the very last,
So richly, brightly, dazzlingly yellow.
Perhaps if the sun’s tears would sing
against a white stone…

Such, such a yellow
Is carried lightly ‘way up high.
It went away I’m sure because it wished to
kiss the world goodbye.

For seven weeks I’ve lived in here,
Penned up inside this ghetto
But I have found my people here.

The dandelions call to me
And the white chestnut candles in the court.
Only I never saw another butterfly.

That butterfly was the last one.
Butterflies don’t live in here,
In the ghetto.

~ Pavel Friedmann 4.6.1942
Directions:
1. You can use the template provided or you may trace and cut your butterfly. If you choose to create your own butterfly, make sure your butterfly takes up most of your paper. If you would rather, you can create it online here, [http://butterflies.hmh.org/](http://butterflies.hmh.org/).

2. You can choose to create your butterfly in memory of a child from the Holocaust, this will take research on your part, or you can choose to create your butterfly in memory of someone or a time from your own life.

3. If you choose a child from the Holocaust, include their name, age, home country and extermination camp on your butterfly somewhere. If you choose your own person, include their name, age, place where they lived and your memory somewhere on the butterfly. Also add drawings, printed photographs, facts, etc., these are all ways which you can be creative and unique in creating your butterfly.

4. Here is the template:
5. Here are some examples: